

BEAUTIFUL PLACES

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

The Parish of Lanivet Church

Although not used locally and disputed by several, the church is named Saint Nivet after the daughter of Saint Bryahan of Wales and this is how its recorded by English Heritage.



There has been a religious presence on the site for at least 900 years, and the present building was built in the 15th century and restored in 1865. The Norman column which came from Bodmin Priory was retained as was the 14th Century octagonal Font during this restoration. It is popular belief that the church marks the centre of Cornwall with a 10th Century Celtic wheel Cross in the churchyard that is reputed to be the actually centre, opinion however differs on this. The churchyard also contains a 13th Century four-holed cross.

The church has a Tower to the west, which is a three-stage buttressed structure, and by Cornish standards is regarded as exceptionally high. It houses eight bells some of them dating from 1539.

During the restoration several wall paintings were discovered including the "St Sunday" painting of Christ, these were then painted over. Fortunately, the Rector of that time made sketches of the drawings which are shown on the west wall window ledge.

The east window, above the altar, installed in 1890, depicts the Incarnation, Crucifixion and Ascension. Several other windows commemorate local people as do many memorial plaques around the walls.

The organ is a "Tracker" organ, which is unusual, it was installed in 1871 and was restored in 1900.

The first known dedication of the altar was in 1318 and a rededication took place in 1338 and again after the restoration of 1865.

As you leave the church by the south door there is an ancient coped stone from the 5th or 6th century which was found near the south porch. A slate tablet to the right of this door records the names of all the Rectors since 1259.

A hotel in the village about a quarter mile from the Church sits on the site of the Benedictine Abbey of St Benet's, which was built in 1411, sadly today however only the tower remains reasonably intact.

Lanivet is a diverse village with many facilities, a shop, fish and chip takeaway/cafe, a community hall (The One for All), a junior school, a nursery school and a pub. The latter is called Lanivet Inn but known as 'The Panda', this is due to the connections with the giant Pandas of London Zoo.

During the second world war Lanivet grew all the bamboo needed to feed the Pandas as supplies were unable to be obtained from overseas. The villagers are proud of the service they gave on this issue.

There are three footpaths of note that go through the village and pass the church, the oldest, The Saints Way, runs from Padstow to Par and originally provided a route for pilgrims from Ireland going to France. Lanivet Church is considered the half way point on this route. The newer ones are The Celtic Way from St Germans to St Michael's Mount and the latest The Bodmin Way which connects the five Team churches of the area: St Petroc's (Bodmin), St Stephen (Nanstallon), Lanivet Parish Church, St Hydroc (Lanhydrock) and St Meubred (Cardinham).

Val and Robert Moore